

# Agenda Item

## Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations



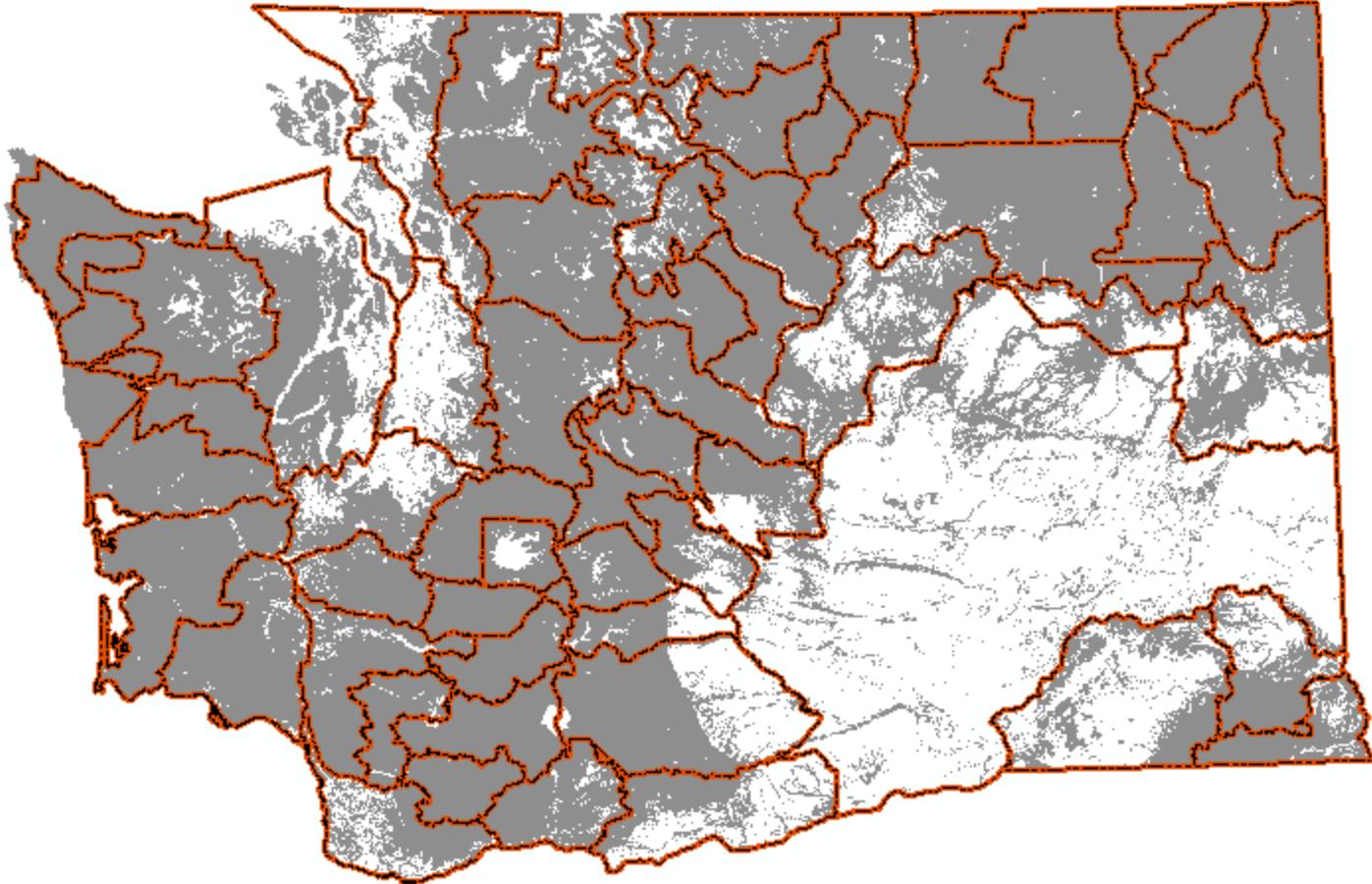
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# Current Season Structure

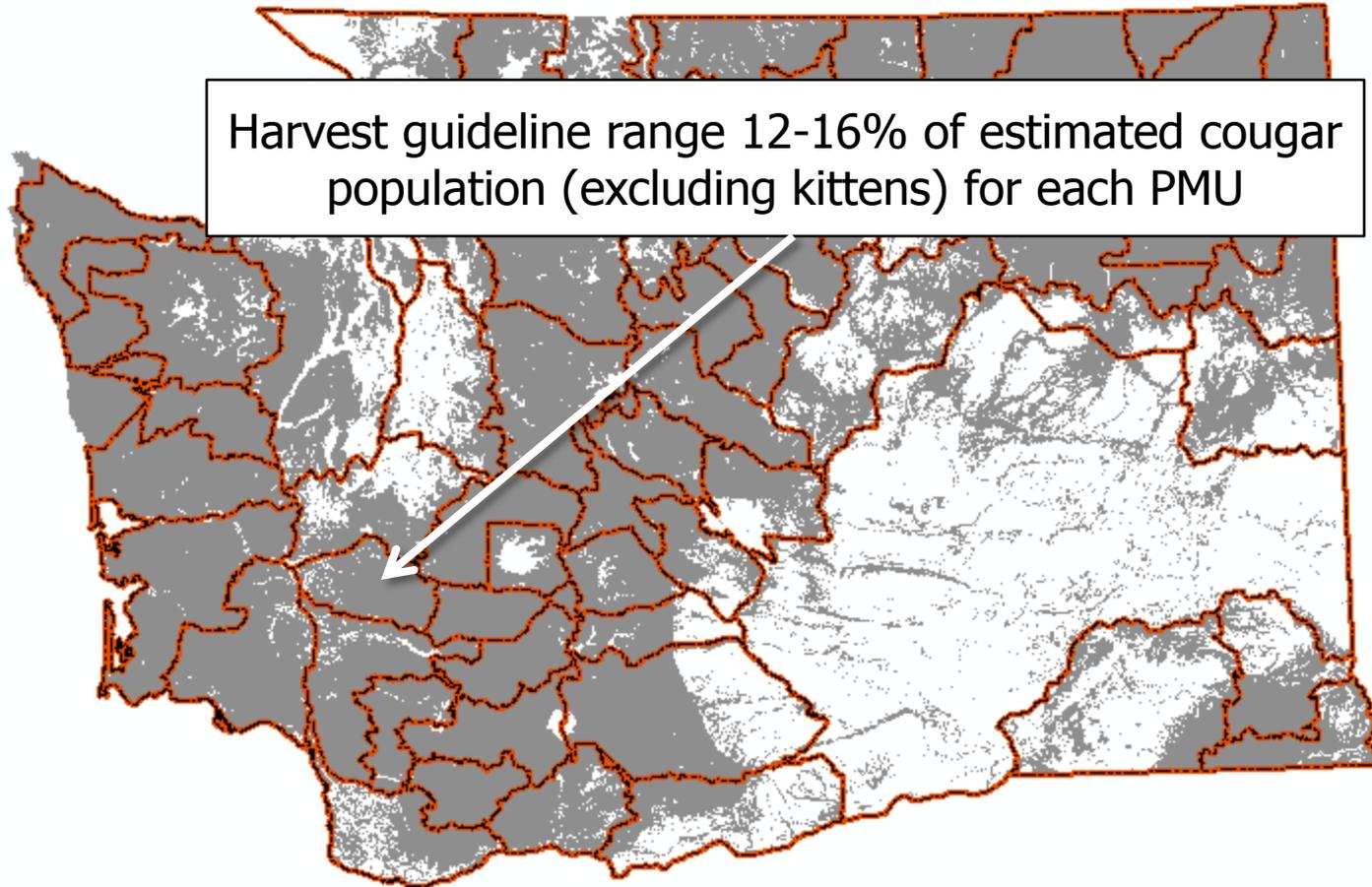
- Early season Sept 1 – Dec 31
- Late season Jan 1 – Mar 31
  
- Any legal weapon in both seasons
  
- Each hunt area (PMU) has a harvest guideline corresponding to 12-16% of cougar population (excluding kittens)
  
- Starting Jan 1, the Director may close hunt areas that meet or exceed the harvest guideline

# Cougar Season Structure

## 49 Hunt Areas



# Harvest Guideline for Each Hunt Area

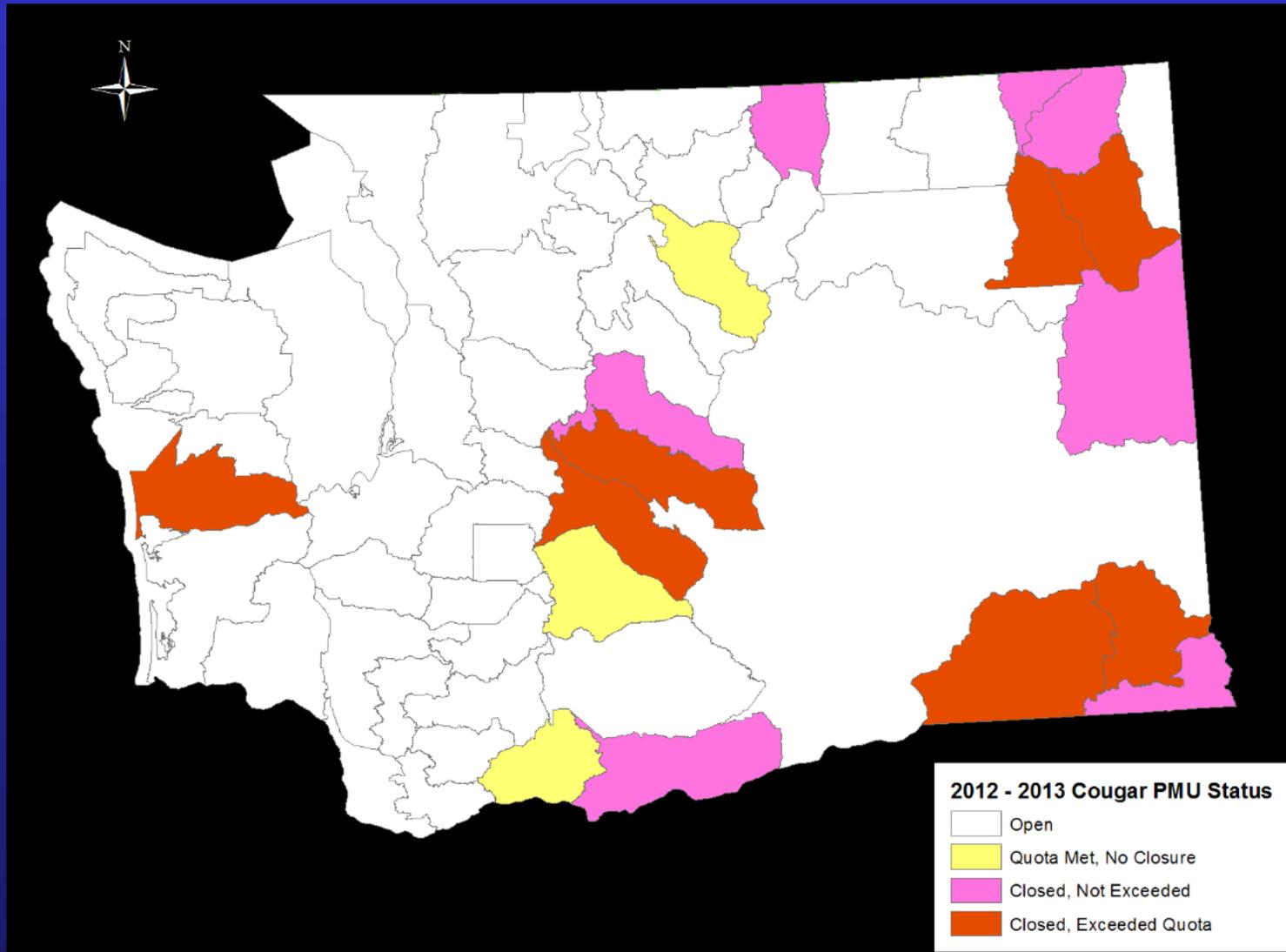


# Expected Outcome

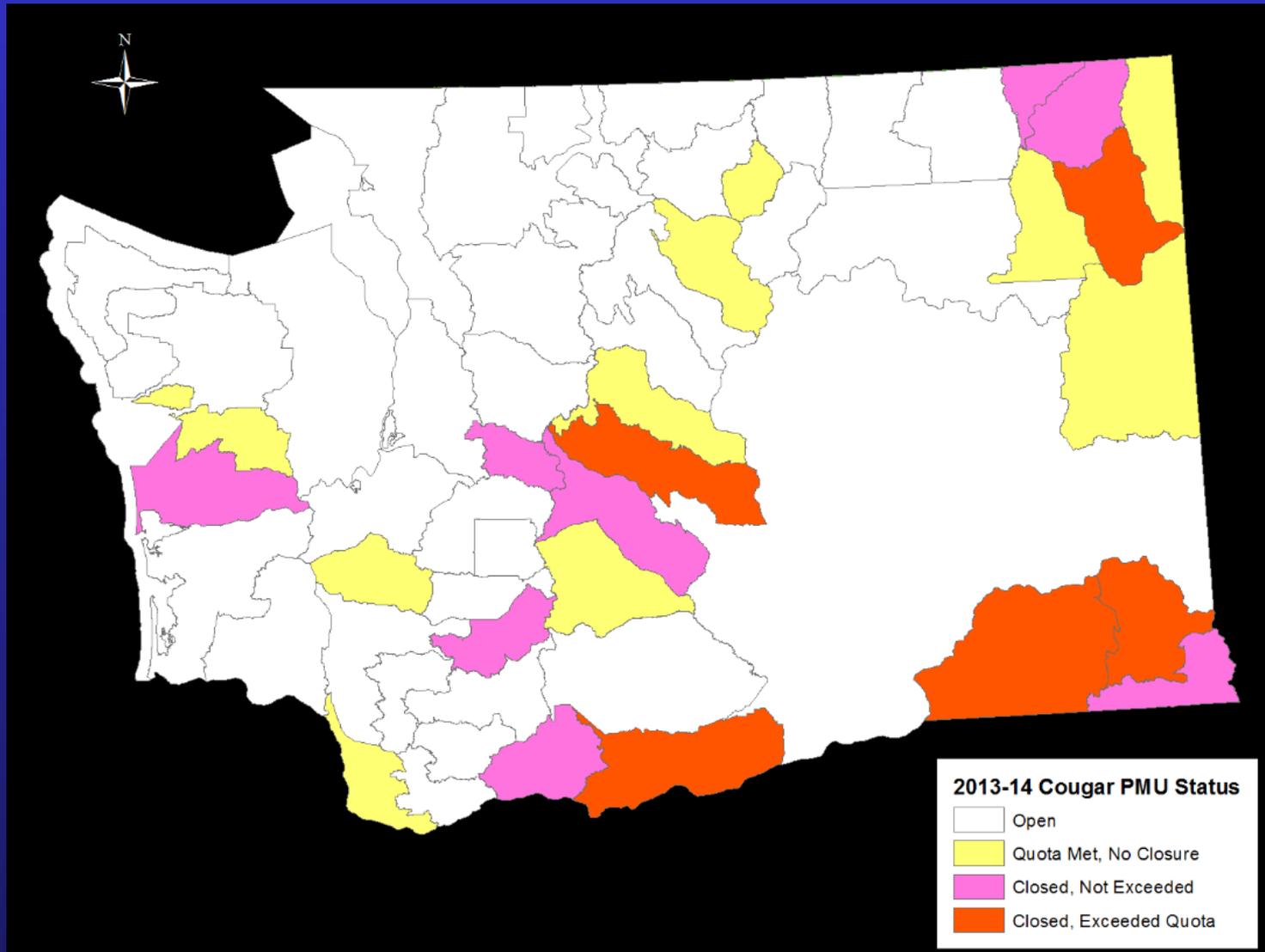
Maximum harvest that still achieves...

- ✓ Stable cougar population
- ✓ Representation of older aged cougars in population
- ✓ Social structure with territorial adult males

# 2012-13 Hunt Area Closures



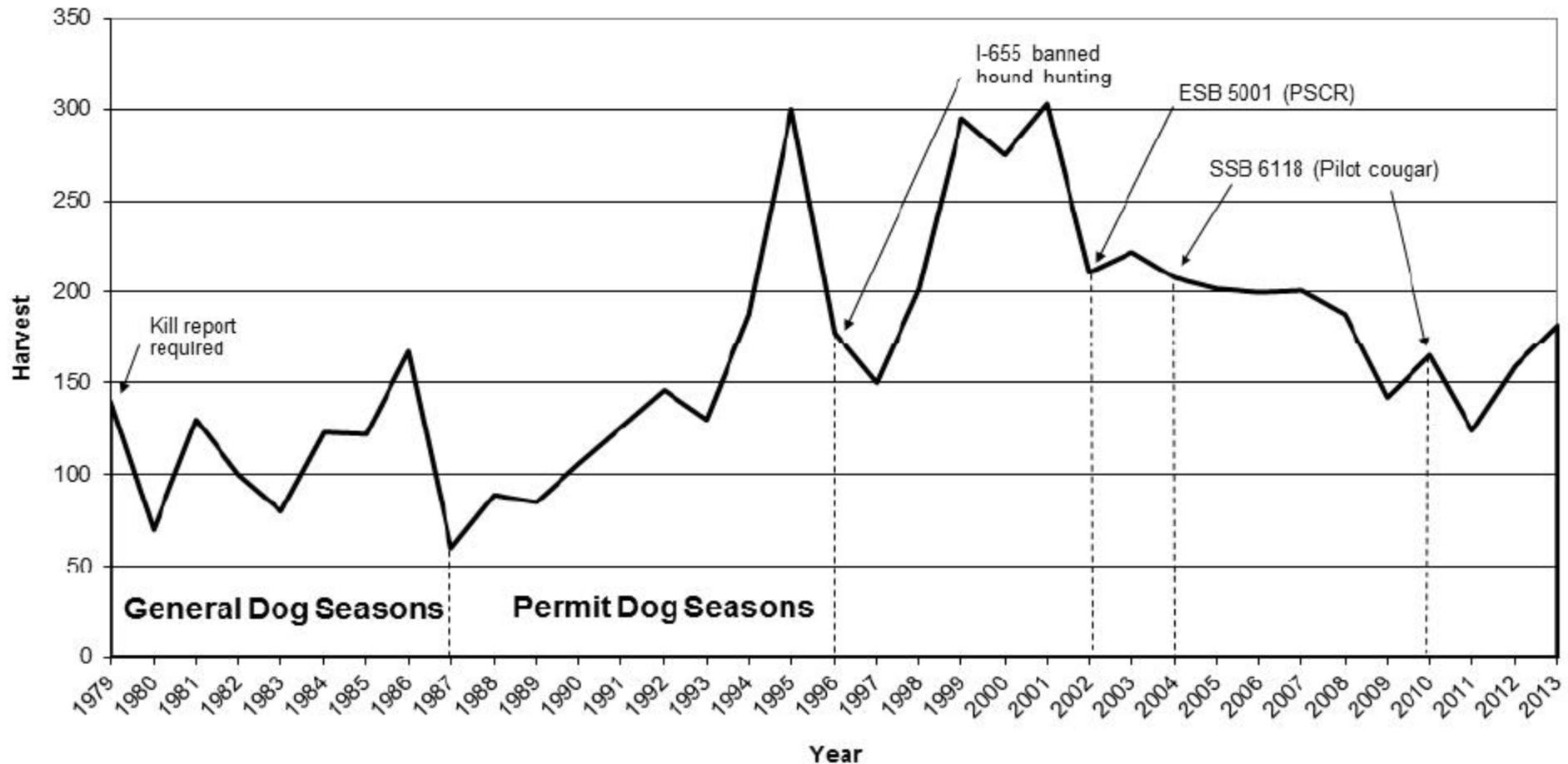
# 2013-14 Hunt Area Closures



# Hunt Statistics

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>
Total hunt areas	49	49
Hunt areas closed in initial review after Dec 31	16% (8/49)	16% (8/49)
Hunt areas remained open until March 31	80% (39/49)	69% (34/49)
Hunt areas that exceeded 16% harvest rate	14% (7/49)	10% (5/49)
Total harvest	159	177
Number of cougars harvested in excess of 16%	13	17

# Cougar Harvest Trend



# Recommendation

- Status Quo harvest guidelines
  - ✓ Review harvest guidelines prior to next 3-year season setting process
- Extend season to April 30 annually (add 1 month)
  - ✓ Provide more opportunity in 75% of state
  - ✓ Note: Valid 2016 license needed for April 2016
- Split GMUs 564 & 568 into two hunt areas
- Direct agency to close hunt areas, rather than delegated to Director

# Questions